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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1110  
By Boyer

A RESOLUTION to recognize Sonja G. Armstrong on the  
occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Sonja G. Armstrong is one such educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Armstrong has served as an educator for 40 years; during her illustrious career, she positively influenced many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Armstrong completed her undergraduate work at Wilberforce University and Central State College, earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education in 1962; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Mrs. Armstrong returned to school and earned her Master of Science degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, she began her exemplary career in 1962 as an elementary school teacher at Louis Pasteur School in Cleveland, Ohio; and

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WHEREAS, Sonja later taught at Elementary Grove in Oak Ridge and at Pond Gap Elementary in Knoxville until 1979; and

WHEREAS, throughout her remarkable tenure, Mrs. Armstrong has served the Knoxville City School System and the Knox County School System in numerous capacities, including as an Educational Diagnostician, a Traveling Reading Resource Teacher, an Administrative Intern, as Assistant Principal of Blue Grass Elementary School and in her current position as the Instructional Supervisor for Elementary Schools with the Knox County School System; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Armstrong has served with distinction as an educator and administrator in the Knoxville City and Knox County School Systems and has earned numerous awards, including the 1973 Outstanding Elementary Teacher of America, the 1981 Alcoa Con. #175 Public Service Award, and two Certificates of Appreciation from Governor Lamar Alexander and Governor Ned McWherter for personal commitment to, and participation in, the Adult Basic Education Program; and

WHEREAS, she was a Danforth Foundation Leadership 21 Program honoree and garnered the Meritorious Service Award for promoting Cultural Diversity Education in the area of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Outstanding Dedication and Commitment to Education Award from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Mrs. Armstrong was also named as a YWCA Tribute to Women Finalist; and

WHEREAS, highly-respected in her field, Mrs. Armstrong participates in many professional organizations, including the Knox County Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, the National Education Association, the East Tennessee Association for Adult and Continuing Education, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Tennessee Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the National Staff Development Council, the National Association for the Young Children, the Knox County Association of Elementary School Principals, the Smoky Mountain Reading Association, the Tennessee Reading Association, the Knox Area Literary Council and Phi Delta Kappa; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Armstrong also lends her considerable talents to the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, the Knox County Task Force Against Domestic Violence, the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, the Knoxville Museum of Art, and the United Way Allocation Panel; and

WHEREAS, she is a member of the First A. M. E. Zion Church; and

WHEREAS, Sonja G. Armstrong is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Armstrong truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel is highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; she represents all that is good and noble in education; and

WHEREAS, Sonja G. Armstrong truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized on the occasion of her retirement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Sonja G. Armstrong for her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to her our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.